

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02699 131750Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /087 W

-----042508 131753Z /64

O 131719Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6834

S E C R E T MANAGUA 2699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XA, CU, UR, MPOL, NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUAN REACTION TO SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 148740

1. GON AND OTHER SECTORS OF NICARAGUAN SOCIETY ARE SO PROCCUPIED WITH THE POLITICAL INSURGENCY SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, THEY HAVE'T FOCUSED AS MUCH ON THE CUBAN/SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA OR US REACTION AS MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE OCCURRED.

2. GON POSITION SINCE CUBAN ENTRY INTO ANGOLA AND LACK OF US COUNTER FORCE HAS BEEN TO INTERPRET THIS SITUATION AS INDICATION OF LACK OF US ACCEPTANCE OF ITS FREE WORLD LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES. GON HAS ALSO BEGUN SOUL-SEARCHING AS TO WHETHER THE US WOULD INTERVENE IF CUBA WERE TO INVAD E NICARAGUA. THE FACT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE CON-SIDERED AS A MARKED DEPARTURE FROM THE PAST.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH HAS BEEN REPORTED EXTENSIVELY BY LOCAL MEDIA, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO MEDIA COMMENTARY. EMB BELIEVES THAT GON IS LIKELY TO TAKE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM USG FOCUS ON PROBLEMS OF CUBANS IN AFRICA AND ROLE OF CUBANS AS SURROGATES FOR USSR AS INDICATIVE US RETHINKING ITS HANDS OFF STANCE.

4. GON PROFESSES AND BELIEVES TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THAT CUBA IS

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PAGE 02 MANAGU 02699 131750Z

DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING FSLN GUERRILLA OPERATIONS AGAINST IT. THEY BELIEVE THIS IS DUE TO GON'S FIRM ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE AND ROLE AS STAGING GROUND FOR BAY OF PIGS IN-VASION. THEY CONSIDER NICARAGUA TO BE CASTRO'S PRIMARY TARGET IN LATIN AMERICA AND THAT IF HE CAN PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA, THAT IT WILL HAVE A DOMINO EFFECT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

5. IN SYNTHESIS, ALTHOUGH THE GON IS PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, IT LOOKS TO THE CUBAN/SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA TO BE A TEST OF US FREE WORLD LEADERSHIP, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH CUBA IS LIKELY TO REALIZE A GREATER DESTABILIZING ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU02699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0150
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780666/aaaacelc.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 725b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 148740
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2375375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NICARAGUAN REACTION TO SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA
TAGS: MPOL, PINT, XA, CU, UR, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/725b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014